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THE EXPEDITION OF THE BABYLONIAN EXPLORATION FUND.

B. ALEPPO TO BAGHDAD.

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After ten days in Aleppo,* we planned a trip to the South through the so-called Jebel-Semân district. We had made arrangements for a twelve days' ride. On the morning of our departure, the muleteer came with his animals, and demanded full pay before starting. We made a compromise and the loads were finally placed on the mules. At this point, he again demanded money and threatened to throw off the loads, if we did not give it to him. We were very angry at these proceedings and, after arranging with the servants—four in number—they started with the mules. The muleteer was so busy talking that he did not notice that several of the mules had already started. When he did see it, he ran up the street—it was the chief street in Azizieh, the Christian quarter of Aleppo, and near the barracks—and attempted to stop the mules. We and the servants were too strong for him and his helpers; besides we were well armed with whips and these we used to a great advantage over their bare legs. The louder they shouted the more determined were we, and the harder did we ply our whips. When he came to the barracks, he cried to the soldiers, who were standing guard, to come to his aid. Seeing that we were Franks—a general name for Europeans and Americans—they wisely remained where they were. After ten or fifteen minutes of fighting, we finally conquered our muleteers and marched the mules triumphantly out of the city.

This is only one of the numerous tricks of the muleteers. Very often after a contract to carry so much baggage from one city to another has been sealed and they have gone

* Cf. for Aleppo my article in Vol. XIV., No. 3, of OLD TESTAMENT STUDENT.

about half the distance, they stop their mules and threaten to throw off the loads and return unless higher pay is given to them. If your party be a weak one, there is nothing else to do than to accede to their demands. On the other hand, if you are pretty evenly matched, or are stronger, the only proper course is to give the muleteers a sound beating with your whips or gunstocks and to start the mules, leaving them behind. They soon change their minds and proceed meekly on their journey. Sometimes it is even necessary to draw your guns on these good-for-nothing fellows.

After seven hours' ride, we came to Jebel Semân (Mount Simon) and pitched our tents among the ruins. It will be impossible here to enter into any details or to attempt a description of the famous monastery where Simon Stylites played his part. On the next day about 3 P. M., we were arrested in a small village because we were traveling without a soldier-guide, called in the East *sabtieh*. We refused for a long time to understand the people and would not go back with them. Finding that we could not get away from them, we followed the soldiers, who came to arrest us, to the council-chamber. Here sat the governor and his council. He said that he would keep us over night and then send us back under a soldiers' guard to Aleppo. We objected very strongly, but to no purpose. Finally we acquiesced and demanded an escort at once, saying that we would bring the case before the Foreign Consuls of Aleppo. This made him change his tactics. He said that he would send us on to the next village—the baggage and most of the servants had gone ahead—and that we would be sent back from that place. We left rather abruptly, but no soldiers followed us, nor was anything more heard of his threats. The Turkish law is that all Franks must be provided with *sabtiehs* on their travels, but up to this time we had not complied with this law. If a Frank takes a firm position on this, or any similar question, he can always have his own way about it.

During this trip we visited all of the Roman and Grecian ruins and tombs in this part of the country. One night was spent at Qald Lûzeh among the Druses. The weather was miserable. It rained almost every day. Our accommoda-

tions were very poor and, as a result, we had a great deal of fever. On Thanksgiving (1888) we rode eight hours through a heavy rain and came to Edlib, a city of about 15,000 people. We had originally intended to go further South, but found that it would be impracticable, since the head-muleteer was delirious with the fever, the servants were also broken down, not having had such good protection from the rain as we had, and finally we were quite willing to return, having suffered greatly from the fever. On the next morning we started back and arrived in Aleppo after two days' hard riding.

Between Dec. 1st and 10th, the rest of our party arrived in Aleppo, and on the 13th our caravan started down the Euphrates valley for Baghdad. To Meskeneh, the site where the caravan route first touches the Euphrates, is a ride of 18 hours—an hour being $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 English miles, and 8 hours a good day's ride. The first part of this trip I have taken up at some length in previous numbers of this Journal and hence I will pass over hurriedly the first two or three weeks' ride. The following are the stations where we halted: (1) Dec. 13th at Jebrîn, a small domevillage of about 150 houses, two hrs. out of Aleppo; (2) 14th, Dêr Hafr=8hrs.; (3) 15th and 16th (Sunday), Meskeneh=8hrs; (4) 17th, Abû Harîri, 4hrs. from Debsi (which Prof. Peters identifies with the Biblical Tiphseh)= $7\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.; (5) 18th, El-Hammâm—at present, there are neither barracks nor ruins here, but cf. Sachan; (6) 19th, El Sab'ah= $10\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.; (7) 20th, Ma'den=8 hrs.; (8) 21st, Tarîf=7 hrs.; (9), 22d, Dêr= $8\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. Dêr or Ed-Dêr is the first city of any importance reached, and is the largest city on the caravan route between Aleppo and Baghdad. It has about 6—7000 people, is progressive, has good bazaars where one can even find German beer and French wines. It is also the best market for Arab horses in the world; cf. Lady Anne Blunt in *The Bedawin of the Euphrates*. There is a small Christian (Greek) church in Dêr. We had the pleasure of occupying the same rooms—on the way down—which Sachan, the great German traveler, used in 1879. Dêr was formerly tributary to the Anazeh Arabs, but it is now a strong government post. The Anazeh occupy

the West or desert side of the Euphrates and number from 3-40,000 warriors. The Shammar have the Mesopotamian side, i. e., the Jezireh, and are only a trifle less powerful than the Anazeh. These tribes are enemies and are continually at war with each other. We remained at Dêr over Sunday (23d) and (10) 24th came to Meyâdîn= $9\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.; (11) 25th, Sâlahiyeh= $10\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.; (12) 26th, Abû-Kemal= $6\frac{3}{4}$ hrs.; (13) 27th, El-dâcim= $5\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. Half way between Abû-Kemal and El-dâcim is the boundary line between the districts of Aleppo and Baghdad. Here is also Tel-Jabriyeh, mentioned by Dr. Ward in his *Report on the Wolfe Expedition*. (14) 28th, Nahiyeh = $8\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.; (15) 29th, Anah = 9 hrs. Anah—6 days from Dêr—is the next important city on this route. It is a city of date palms. It lies along the bank of the Euphrates and consists of a single street—from 4-6 miles in length—hemmed in between the river and the hills. There is an island in the river just opposite it, which is covered with ruins. This is old Anah, but it has been deserted for the Western bank. It is impossible for me to estimate the number of its inhabitants. (16) 31st—Sunday, the 30th was spent in Anah—Fahêmeh= $8\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.; (17) Jan. 1st, 1889, Hadêtha= $6\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. Here we had poor quarters on the Western bank of the Euphrates. There are a few houses and the ruins of barracks on this side. In the flood of 1887, three hundred houses and the barracks were ruined. The village proper lies on an island in the river. The Mudir visited us and we accompanied him to his island-village, where we were well received. The island is covered with date palms, mulberry and pomegranate trees. The river is very wide and swift at this point. (18) Jan. 2d, Baghdad-ujeh= $9\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. There are neither houses nor barracks here. There are, however, several large caves. While showing my Winchester to some Turkish soldiers who were cutting stone here, it was accidentally discharged and the director's escape was almost miraculous, (19) Jan. 3d, Hît=8hrs. Here are the celebrated bitumen wells which resemble, in many respects, our natural gas wells. Hît is the shipyard of the Euphrates valley—and also of the Tigris. Almost all of the boats used by these rivers are built here. They are made,

for the most part, out of cane somewhat resembling bamboo and are covered within and without with bitumen. (20) Jan. 4th, Ramâdi=11½ hrs. Ramâdi impressed me as being the most wide awake town in the whole Euphrates valley. It has a telegraph office and large government barracks. The bazaars are very large and well filled. We had some difficulty with the soldiers at this place, as they wished to examine the whole of our baggage. As usual we gained our point after a long discussion. On Jan. 5th (21) we crossed the Euphrates and found ourselves in Mesopotamia. On Sunday—the 6th—we visited Anbar, a large mound about one hour's walk from Qala'at Feludja, our headquarters. Dr. Ward has attempted to identify this site as one of the biblical Sephervaim and Dr. Peters in the *Nation* for May 24th (1889) has combated Dr. Ward's views. I do not think that any one is in a position to say anything definite on this subject. It is a question whether Anbar is a Babylonian site at all. If it is Babylonian, the ancient city which this mound represents will never be known until excavations have been made. From Qala'at Feludja on the Euphrates to Baghdad on the Tigris is a ride of 12 hrs. We made the journey in two days—Jan 7th and 8th—and after a visit to Aker Kûf, came into sight of Baghdad at 1 P. M., on the 8th. There was great excitement in the party. We had been 27 days on our trip and had suffered numerous privations. The long wished for city was near at hand and every one was childishly anxious to arrive at the place, which was to be our headquarters for so long a time. As we came near to the city, we were met by Bedri Bey, the commissioner attached to the party by the Turkish government. Our arrival was expected as we had dispatched soldiers to our agents there. After passing through the old part of the city on the Western bank of the Tigris, we crossed the bridge and were met by two Sepoy soldiers bearing invitations from the English Consul-general to dine at the residency in the evening. In my next paper I will take up Baghdad and the trip to Niffer, the site of excavations.